

Message Text

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UNCLAS CARACAS 10834

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMAE, ETRD, VE

SUBJ: AGRICULTURAL TRACTOR IMPORTS

REF: CARACAS 10783

1. REFTEL REPORTED RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT BY VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ THAT TRACTOR PRICES WERE TO BE REDUCED TO THE END-USER BY 30 PERCENT.

2. LOCAL PRESS TODAY QUOTED VENEZUELAN MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE SAYING BEFORE THE VENEZUELAN SENATE COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE AND AGRARIAN POLICY THAT HIS MINISTRY WOULD MAKE "MASSIVE" IMPORTS OF TRACTORS, IN EFFECT TO "CUT OUT THE MIDDLEMAN."

3. IN DECEMBER OF 1974, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE PREPARED NATIONAL TRACTOR REQUIREMENTS PROJECTIONS SHOWING 1975 DEMAND AT 3033 UNITS AND 1976 DEMAND AT 3300 UNITS, WITH PROGRESSIVE INCREASE TO 4800 UNITS IN 1979.

4. MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE RECENTLY ESTABLISHED AN OFFICE OF AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT SUPPLY, HEADED BY DR. RAMON BASTARDO. EMBASSY WILL ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN FURTHER DETAILS RELATING TO PROPOSED MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE PURCHASES.
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